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BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE
OFFICE OF THE BUREAU CHIEF

January 19, 2010

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Paul Stacey
Bureau of Water Protection
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Mr. Stacey,

I am writing in support of the strongest possible statewide regulations on water flow in rivers. I strongly oppose the creation of a Class 4 designation.

I have been a Connecticut resident since 1980 but when I grew up in Washington DC, the Red Cross canoeing and sailing courses on the Potomac River required tetanus and other inoculations—a fall into those filthy and polluted was a potentially life-threatening occurrence. Today, of course, the Potomac is a beautiful and clean river, ideal for boating, fishing and water sports.

With this history in mind, it is distressing to learn that there is a possibility that some of Connecticut's rivers might be condemned to a "Class 4" categorization and written off as unsalvageable or not worth saving. I urge you not to give up on *any* of our state's rivers. Although our urban and industrial area rivers are frequently the dirtiest, they are potentially of high value to residents of towns and cities. The Naugatuck River is a good case in point—it is being returned to a river with high environmental and recreational values and may soon even see the return of anadromous fish to their spawning areas.

Regulations that would permit low flows would stymie efforts to return the Naugatuck, Quinnipiac, and other rivers to a healthy condition good for recreation and wildlife.

Connecticut is blessed with an abundant water supply. As the efforts to deal with stream flow on the Shepaug amply illustration, there is plenty of water for all. *Every* state river should be protected from having its flow depleted by water companies and other river water diverters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Martha Phillips".

Martha Phillips